



Front Country Trails
Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Perkins called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Perkins

ROLL CALL: Task Force Members Present:

Suzanne Perkins	County Park Commissioner 1st District
Judith Dale	County Park Commissioner 3rd District
Beebe Longstreet	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
W. Scott Burns	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Bruce Emmens	Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer Los Padres National Forest
Jeff Bensen	Assistant Forest Recreation Officer Los Padres National Forest

City of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye	Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Erik Axelson	County Parks Deputy Director
Claude Garciacelay	ASLA, Park Planner

Los Padres National Forest Staff Present

Kerry Kellogg	Wilderness and Trails Manager, Santa Barbara Ranger District
Kyle Kinports	Recreation Officer, Santa Barbara Ranger District

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Task Force Member Emmens introduced Douglas Dodge, the new District Ranger for the Santa Barbara Ranger District.

1. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2008; and
- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 1, 2009

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Burns to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meetings of June 4, 2008, and July 1, 2009.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

NEW BUSINESS

2. Post Jesusita Fire Erosion Control Project – For Information

Recommendation: That FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a report on the Post Jesusita Fire Erosion Control Project.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Erik Axelson, County Parks Deputy Director; John Frye, Engineering Manager, County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District Santa Barbara County Flood Control; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Michael Harris, OES, Santa Barbara County, Ray Smith, and Sylvelin Edgerton

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Burns asked what the Forest Service is planning to do to mitigate flooding.
 - Mr. Dodge said 203 acres on the west end of the fire above highway 154 will be treated, the timing of which is about the same as the County.
- Chair Perkins stressed the importance of educating the public.

- Task Force Member Dale told Ms. Edgerton that staff is aware of the problems with the previous hydro-mulch work and is taking steps to mitigate the problem with the new work.
- Vice Chair Longstreet commented that staff will mitigate what they can, but public safety issues and maintaining the hillsides are a priority. She said severe erosion could cause loss of life, property, or the complete loss of the trails.
- Task Force Member Burns concurred with Ms. Longstreet, saying safety is a priority and in the long-run, the trails and hillsides must be maintained.
- Task Force Member Dale asked what affect the hydro-mulch has on native grass that has already begun to grow.
 - Mr. Frye said Flood Control will fund studies during the Jesusita hydro-mulching to evaluate the affect of re-vegetation and effectiveness with sediment. He said that the mulch itself provides a blanket so that the native seeds in the soil have a better chance to germinate, which is one reason for the mulch. He said another reason is to provide a protective barrier against the bare dirt from the impact of the raindrops.
- Task Force Member Dale asked why the hydro-mulch does not have seeds in it; she said she assumes it is so the native grass can take root and not something that is introduced.
 - Mr. Frye said that is the case; it is becoming more common that seeds are not included in the mulches.
- Task Force Member Bensen said that he was part of the management team that implemented the closure orders on the Gap and Zaca Fires on the Santa Barbara District. He stated that there are no developed trails on the Gap Fire area, but because of West Camino Cielo there is a lot of disbursed recreational use and access. He expressed the importance of not disturbing the hydro-mulch to give it the best chance to do its job and protect the downstream resources. Mr. Benson said there was no hydro-mulching on the Zaca Fire, but the trails were closed to keep the people off the areas because of safety issues. He said storm events were monitored because of the increased flows, so both aspects mentioned today are very important to put in place, particularly during the first year.

OLD BUSINESS

3. FCT Management Recommendations - Work Plan Update – For Information
 Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives the quarterly status report on the work plan to implement the FCT Management Recommendations.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Parks and Recreation Department

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Emmens talked about the Cost Share Agreement and the Front Country Trails Coordinator Position. He said staff has done a great job getting the agreement executed and moving ahead with the recruitment for the position. Mr. Emmens stated these items are key to moving the remaining recommendations forward.
- Chair Perkins concurred.

4. Trail Maintenance Update – For Information

Recommendation: That FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force receives a status report on FCT trail maintenance projects.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Kerry Kellogg, Assistant Recreation Officer, Santa Barbara Ranger District

Task Force Comments:

- Vice Chair Longstreet congratulated staff for their efforts, saying there has been much progress. She thanked volunteers who participated in the volunteer trail days.
- Task Force Member Burns asked how interested individuals can volunteer.
 - Mr. Kellogg explained that process.
- Task Force Member Burns asked staff to explain the damage a person will do to the hydro-mulch if they walk or ride on it.
 - Ms. Zachary explained that if the seal is broken, water would enter and erosion could potentially occur.
 - Mr. Axelson said the County of Santa Barbara is committed to doing public outreach around the hydro-mulching project through the Public Information Office.
- Chair Perkins asked whether the County, City, or Forest Service could institute some sort of mechanism to ticket offenders who violate the closed trails.
 - Mr. Axelson said staff could work with the County Counsel and Executive Office on that matter. He said, however, that County Parks is reluctant to add additional enforcement responsibilities when the resources are not available. Mr. Axelson said that the Office of Emergency Services made a commitment regarding the closure of Tunnel Road, to closely coordinate with the Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol. He said the parking restriction has been very well enforced.
- Task Force Emmens said Forest Supervisor restrictive (closure) orders are routinely put in place that do have enforcement behind them in terms of fines and citations. He said those orders are currently in place on the

trails that are currently closed on National Forest land, but not on City or County lands. Mr. Emmens said closure orders will be in place in areas related to the hydro-mulching.

- Chair Perkins commented that it would be good for the County and City to do the same and come up with some emergency situation by which it can be done.
 - o Mr. Axelson said he will look into the matter.
- Task Force Member Dale asked if there is a plan to get the local news media involved to get the word out.
 - o Mr. Axelson said the County plans a major initiative, and he will make sure to include the issue of the integrity of the mulch.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:44 p.m., with no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 123 Anapamu Street, 4th Floor, for the December 2, 2009, meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m.

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Dale to adjourn the meeting.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,



Erik Axelson
County Parks Deputy Director